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KENNEDY (680)
BY WITNEY SHOEMAKER

NEWPORT, R.I., SEPT. 27 (AP) PRESIDENT KENNEDY MAY NAME JOHN A. MCCONE, FORMER HEAD OF THE ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION, TO REPLACE ALLEN DULLES AS DIRECTOR OF THE SUPERSENSITIVE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY.

IF MCCONE IS TO TAKE THE JOB AS DIRECTOR OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY, AN ANNOUNCEMENT PROBABLY WILL COME TODAY FROM THE NEWPORT WHITE HOUSE.

THE PRESIDENT AND MRS. KENNEDY ARRIVED HERE YESTERDAY FOR A WEEK OF RELAXATION.

KENNEDY IS ABOUT TO SETTLE ON A REPLACEMENT FOR DULLES, THE PIPE-SMOKING PROFESSIONAL FIGURE WHO MASTERMINDED A VAST WORLD WAR II SPY NETWORK IN GERMANY AND ITALY.

MCCONE, A REPUBLICAN, WAS SAID TO BE IN LINE FOR ONE OF THE HOTTEST SPOTS IN THE GOVERNMENT, BUT ONE OR TWO HITCHES HAD YET TO BE STRAIGHTENED OUT.

KENNEDY CONFERRED WITH MCCONE AT THE WHITE HOUSE SEVERAL WEEKS AGO. THE CIA POST MAY HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED AT THE TIME, BUT THE ANNOUNCED PURPOSE--AND THE ONLY PURPOSE MCCONE COMMENTED UPON--WAS RUSSIA'S DECISION TO RESUME NUCLEAR TESTS.

MCCONE, WHO HEADED THE AEC FOR THREE YEARS UNDER FORMER PRESIDENT DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER, HAD CONTENDED PREVIOUSLY THE UNITED STATES COULD NOT GO ON INDEFINITELY OBSERVING THE MORATORIUM ON ATOMIC TESTS. KENNEDY ASKED FOR A PERSONAL ACCOUNT OF MCCONE'S VIEWS.

A 59-YEAR-OLD WEST COAST BUILDER AND OPERATOR OF A FLEET OF TANKERS, MCCONE SERVED FOR MORE THAN A YEAR AS UNDERSECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE IN THE TRUMAN ADMINISTRATION. HE BUILT SHIPS DURING WORLD WAR II.

WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY PIERRE SALINGER DECLINED TO TALK OF THE MCCONE-CIA REPORTS BUT INDICATED KENNEDY WAS ON THE VERGE OF MAKING A SIGNIFICANT ANNOUNCEMENT. ANSWERING QUESTIONS, SALINGER WOULD NOT RULE OUT THE POSSIBILITY OF AN IMPORTANT MEETING AT HAMPSHIRE FARM, WHERE THE PRESIDENT AND FIRST LADY ARE STAYING.

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THERE WAS NO DOUBT THE STEP UNDER CONSIDERATION INVOLVED THE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY. THE CIA PLAYED A CONTROVERSIAL PART IN THE DISASTROUS CUBAN INVASION ATTEMPT LAST APRIL. IT HAD COLLECTED INFORMATION AND HELPED TRAIN THE CUBAN EXILES WHOSE SCHEME TO OVERTHROW PRIME MINISTER FIDEL CASTRO ENDED IN SPECTACULAR FAILURE.

KENNEDY DID NOT PIN BLAME ON DULLES AND HAS KEPT THE 68-YEAR-OLD BROTHER OF THE LATE SECRETARY OF STATE JOHN FOSTER DULLES IN HIS NATIONAL SECURITY CIRCLE.

THE PRESIDENT YESTERDAY NAMED ANOTHER REPUBLICAN, WILLIAM C. FOSTER, AS HEAD OF THE NEW ARMS CONTROL AND DISARMAMENT AGENCY BEFORE FLYING TO NEWPORT FROM NEW YORK.

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